

TODAY

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Parish council row is quelled

MEDIATORS have moved to calm friction at a council.

Basildon Council's assessment sub-committee, which considers complaints against councillors, recommended a team of mediators help Ramsden Crays Parish Council iron out differences with one of its constituents. This followed a series of rifts over its campaign against Dale Farm traveller site.

It looked at the matter after resident Ann Davis complained David McPherson-Davis, parish council chairman, breached the code of conduct by refusing to publicly apologise for shouting at her to be quiet as heckling came from the gallery.

The sub-committee suggested Mr McPherson-Davis attend a course on dealing with challenging situations, but found he had not breached the code.

Its report stated: "The mediation service attempted to arrange mediation and had approached the complainant, councillor McPherson-Davis and other members of the parish council.

"However, the complainant declined to participate."

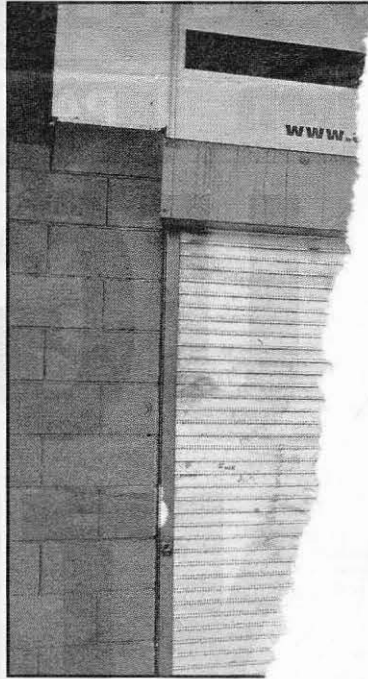
Other members of the parish council said mediation was no longer needed following membership changes.

Ms Davis was happy Mr McPherson was attending the course so further action was not needed, it said.

There has been friction at the parish council since a number of councillors who are also on the committee of Ramsden Crays Residents' Association were elected.

Basildon district councillor John Dornan quit the parish council last July because of the rows.

RESIDENTS, PO



■ Vacant – this former

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